

**Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Technology Center 1725**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/539,773 Confirmation No. : 4951
First Named Inventor : Stefan HELGEE, *et al.*
Filed : December 29, 2005
TC/A.U. : 1725
Examiner : Kevin P. Kerns

Docket No. : 038724.56337US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Method For Arc Welding of Ductile Cast Iron

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed following the filing of a Request for Continued Examination on February 7, 2008. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 7, 2007. Consideration of these amendments and remarks prior to the next action in this application is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.